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First Biennial Report
OF
The Eugenics Board
of North Carolina

July 1, 1934
To
June 30, 1936



R. EUGENE BROWN,
Secretary.

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EUGENICS BOARD OF NORTH CAROLINA

MRS. W. T. BOST, Commissioner of Public Welfare, *Chairman*

HON. A. A. F. SEAWELL, Attorney General

DR. CARL V. REYNOLDS, Secretary State Board of Health

DR. J. W. ASHBY, Superintendent, State Hospital, Raleigh

DR. W. C. LINVILLE, Superintendent, State Hospital, Goldsboro

STAFF

R. EUGENE BROWN, *Secretary*

MARGARET RUNNION, *Office Secretary*

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

*To His Excellency, J. C. B. EHRINGHAUS,
Governor of North Carolina.*

DEAR SIR:

I have the honor of submitting herewith the report of the Eugenics Board of North Carolina for the biennial period ended June 30, 1936.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. W. T. BOST,
Chairman.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

To

The Eugenics Board Of North Carolina

Although this is the first biennial report on the work of the Eugenics Board, the Board was organized in July, 1933 under Chapter 224, Public Laws of 1933. Much of the time during the first three months was spent in providing legal forms and in working out procedures and policies. The first petitions for sterilization operations were presented to the Board on October 21, 1933. Since that time there has been a gradual increase in the number of cases presented at the monthly meetings, as is indicated by Table I on page 12.

During the biennial period ended June 30, 1936 a total of 309 petitions for sterilization were presented to the Board for consideration. The Board authorized operations in 301 of these cases. Opportunity was given for the parties concerned in each case to offer their objections or to give consent in writing for the operation. During this period persons appeared for hearings in only four cases. The Board declined to authorize the operation in one of the four cases. The following table shows the number and type of operations performed under orders of the Eugenics Board during the past two years:

TOTAL NUMBER OF STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—BY TYPE OF OPERATION AND
ORIGIN OF PETITION—JULY 1, 1934 THROUGH JUNE 30, 1936.

	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	Total
State Institution	17	6	109	1	133
County Institution .....	....	1	12	....	13
Non-Institution	9	---	95	2	106
Total.....	26	7	216	3	252

During the biennial period an appeal to the Superior Court from an order of the Eugenics Board was taken in one case. The Superior Court sustained the action taken by the Board and since no appeal was made to the Supreme Court, the operation was performed. The Board was represented in court by Assistant Attorney General T. Wade Bruton. One other appeal was taken to the Superior Court in March, 1934, but the case was never brought to trial since the patient was an inmate of a

State institution and the Board believed that the consent of the family for the operation might later be obtained.

Out of a total of 161 petitions presented to the Board between May 11, 1935 (when the General Assembly provided for the submission of cases with consent) and June 30, 1936, written consent for the operations were filed in 107 cases. An effort is made in every case to secure the consent of the next of kin or guardian of the patient by pointing out the advantages of sterilization. The purpose and the advantages of sterilization have been well stated by the Human Betterment Foundation of Pasadena, California, as follows:

1. That sterilization has one effect only—it prevents parenthood.
2. It is not a punishment; it is a protection; and therefore carries no stigma or humiliation.
3. It in no way unsexes the party sterilized.
4. Sterilization is approved by the families and friends of the sterilized.
5. It is approved by the medical staffs, probation officers, and social workers generally wherever they have come in contact with these patients.
6. It permits patients to return to their homes and friends who would otherwise be confined to institutions during the fertile period of life.
7. The records show that many moron girls paroled after sterilization have married and are happy and succeeding fairly well. They could never have managed and cared for children, to say nothing of the inheritance and fate of such children.
8. Homes are kept together by sterilization of husband and wife in many mild cases of mental disease, thus removing the dread by the normal spouse of the procreation of a defective child and permitting normal marital companionship.
9. The operation is simple, it removes no organ or tissue of the body. It has no effect on the patient except to prevent parenthood. Under conservative laws, sanely and diplomatically administered, as they have been in California, these discoveries developed by the medical profession now offer to these classes the greatest relief possible and the greatest protection to the defenseless child of the future.

If the case for sterilization is properly presented to the families of patients needing sterilization, it is believed that in most instances their consent and cooperation can be obtained. The Eugenics Board has declined to attempt to force patients to submit to operations in the few instances where persuasion was not effective in getting patients to hospitals for such operations on the assumption that it is better to let a few cases go rather than take the risk of creating antagonism. There are some instances, however, particularly non-institutional cases, where the need for sterilization is sufficiently urgent to warrant the use of force and in such instances the petitioners should have legal authorization for carrying out the orders of the Board.

Much of the Secretary's time devoted to the work of the Eugenics Board during the last three years has been spent in promotional work. The subject has been presented at two Public Welfare Institutes held in Chapel Hill, at two District Welfare Conferences and at a meeting of the Charlotte Mental Hygiene Society. In 1935 the Secretary prepared for the Eugenics Board a booklet, "Eugenical Sterilization in North Carolina," which contained a brief survey of the growth of eugenical sterilization and a report of the work of the Eugenics Board through June 30, 1935. Although the booklet was prepared for distribution in the State, numerous requests from out of the State have been received.

The law, procedure and forms are not included in this report since they were included in the booklet referred to above. A copy of the booklet will be presented to each member of the General Assembly with a copy of the biennial report.

While it is believed wise to proceed cautiously, in order to develop a sound basis for sterilization in North Carolina, the magnitude of the problems of feeble-mindedness and mental disease in the State, indicates that sterilization must be done on a much larger scale if the program is to be made effective. Two of the outstanding difficulties which must be overcome are as follows:

1. Hesitancy of County Commissioners to provide adequate funds for hospitalization.
2. Limited number of social workers on the staffs of the majority of the county departments of public welfare to study and prepare cases to be presented to the Eugenics Board and at the same time per-

form adequately the numerous other duties for which these county departments are responsible.

The sterilization law should be amended in at least two respects, namely:

1. To provide that the County Superintendent of Public Welfare may act as petitioner in instituting sterilization proceedings in the case of any feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally diseased person who is on parole or probation from one of the State institutions and any such person who is an inmate of a State institution when authorized to do so by the Superintendent of such institution.
2. To provide that any feeble-minded, epileptic or mentally diseased person may be admitted to the appropriate State Hospital for purposes of sterilization without the necessity of having such person committed as an inmate; *provided* that the Eugenics Board of North Carolina has previously considered the petition for sterilization and has authorized such an operation. The Superintendent of such State Hospital may in his discretion receive in such manner any such person upon the written request of a superintendent of public welfare or the superintendent of another State institution, where facilities for such operations are not available, and that the State Hospital officials shall have the same authority to restrain and control such person until he has recovered from the operation or until such time as the Superintendent deems wise for his release. The Superintendent of such State Hospital shall be authorized to collect a fee for such operation which shall be sufficient to cover the cost of such operation and the cost of maintenance during the time the patient is in the State Hospital.

It is, therefore, recommended that the law be amended in these respects.

The members of the Eugenics Board have attended the monthly meetings regularly in person or through duly authorized representatives as provided by law.

Dr. J. C. Knox and Dr. R. T. Stimpson of the State Board of Health have each served at numerous meetings for the Secretary of the State Board of Health.

Messrs. T. W. Bruton and Emmett Willis of the Attorney General's Office have each served at numerous meetings for the Attorney General.

Dr. F. L. Whelpley of the State Hospital at Goldsboro has served on several occasions for the Superintendent of the State Hospital at Goldsboro.

EXPENDITURES

FISCAL YEAR 1935-1936

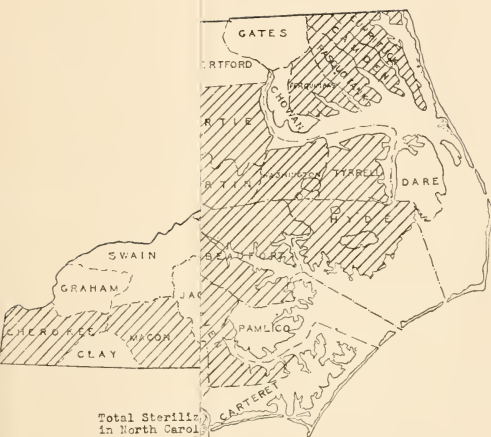
1. Salaries	\$1,380.00
2. Supplies and materials	18.77
3. Equipment	200.00
4. Postage	94.00
5. Printing forms, etc.	84.43
6. Printing bulletins and reports.	107.30
7. Telephone and telegrams.....	1.65
8. Subscription and dues.....	3.00
Total.....	\$1,889.15

NOTE.—From July 1, 1933 through June 30, 1935 the Eugenics Board had no appropriation. Supplies, materials and postage were furnished by the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare for this period.

TABLE I

NUMBER OF CASES PRESENTED AT EACH MEETING OF THE EUGENICS BOARD AND
NUMBER OF OPERATIONS ORDERED UNDER THE 1933 LAW

	New Cases	Cases Carried Over From Previous Meeting	Operations Ordered	Petitions Declined Or Action Postponed Indefinitely
October 21, 1933	3	....	3	....
November 15	1	....	1	....
December 13	9	....	9	....
January 19, 1934	6	....	5	....
February 21	4	1	5	....
March 21	4	....	4	....
April 20	5	....	5	....
May 23	6	....	6	....
June 27	1	....	1	....
July 20	6	....	6	....
August 29	7	....	4	....
September 19	6	....	6	....
October 19	18	3	21	....
November 21	22	....	21	1
December 19	12	....	12	....
January 18, 1935	14	....	13	....
February 20	12	1	12	1
March 20	19	....	19	....
April 19	34	....	34	....
May 22	22	....	20	2
June 19	25	....	24	....
July 19	11	1	11	1
August 21	9	....	9	....
September 18	9	....	8	....
October 18	15	1	15	1
November 20	15	....	15	....
December 18	7	....	7	....
January 22, 1936	5	....	4	1
February 19	3	....	3	....
March 18	5	....	5	....
April 22	9	....	9	....
May 20	8	....	7	1
June 24	16	....	16	....
Total	348		340	8



Total Sterilized
in North Carolina
from October 1
1917 through 1918
by Counties.

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	6
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TABLE II

EUGENIC STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN NORTH CAROLINA TO
JUNE 30, 1936

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	1	....	1	3
1930.....	....	2	10	5	17
1931.....	....	....	10	1	11
1932.....	....	9	7	2	18
1933.....	1	....	3	....	4
1934.....	7	8	45	1	61
1935.....	17	7	152	2	178
1936 to June 30.....	8	....	32	....	40
Grand Totals.....	34	27	259	12	332
Total for State Institutions.....	23	24	129	6	182
Total for County Institutions.....	....	3	18	2	23
Total Non-Institutional Cases..	11	....	112	4	127

TABLE III

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	....	....	....	....	....
1930.....	....	1	4	4	9
1931.....	....	....	3	....	3
1932.....	....	9	5	1	15
1933.....	1	....	1	....	2
1934.....	5	8	31	1	45
1935.....	9	6	67	....	82
1936 to June 30.....	8	....	18	....	26
Total.....	23	24	129	6	182

TABLE IV

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—COUNTY INSTITUTIONS

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....		1	....	1	2
1930.....		1	2	....	3
1931.....			3	1	4
1932.....					
1933.....					
1934.....			1	....	1
1935.....		1	10	....	11
1936 to June 30.....			2	....	2
Total.....		3	18	2	23

TABLE V
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—NON-INSTITUTIONAL

Year	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	
1929.....	1	....	....	....	1
1930.....	....	....	4	1	5
1931.....	....	....	4	....	4
1932.....	....	....	2	1	3
1933.....	....	....	2	....	2
1934.....	2	....	13	....	15
1935.....	8	....	75	2	85
1936 to June 30.....	....	....	12	....	12
Total.....	11	....	112	4	127

TABLE VI
AGE, SEX AND TYPE OF OPERATION OF PERSONS STERILIZED AND ASEXUALIZED IN
NORTH CAROLINA, 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1936

Age	Vasectomy	Castration	Total Males	Salpin- gectomy	Ovari- ectomy	Total Females	Total
10-19.....	7	7	14	126	9	135	149
20-29.....	13	15	28	89	2	91	119
30-39.....	10	3	13	43	1	44	57
40-49.....	2	1	3	1	....	1	4
Over 49.....	2	....	2	....	....	....	2
Unknown....	....	1	1	....	....	....	1
Total.....	34	27	61	259	12	271	332

TABLE VII
STERILIZATION OPERATIONS—STATE INSTITUTIONS—BY INSTITUTION AND TYPE OF
OPERATION, 1929 TO JUNE 30, 1936

Institution	Male		Female		Total
	Vasectomy	Castration	Salpin- gectomy	Ovariectomy	
Caswell Training School.....	2	1	13	....	16
State Hospital at Raleigh.....	8	4	100	2	114
State Hospital at Morganton.....	....	....	1	....	1
State Hospital at Goldsboro.....	13	19	4	....	36
Farm Colony for Women.....	....	....	6	....	6
Samarcand Manor.....	....	....	5	4	9
Total.....	23	24	129	6	182

TABLE VIII

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS WITH REFERENCE TO TYPE OF OPERATION AND RACE,
1929 TO JUNE 30, 1936

Type of Operation	White	Negro	Total
Vasectomy.....	18	16	34
Castration.....	6	21	27
Salpingectomy.....	242	17	259
Ovariectomy.....	11	1	12
Total.....	277	55	332

TABLE IX

DISTRIBUTION OF STERILIZATION CASES WITH REFERENCE TO MENTAL DEFECT,
ORIGIN OF PETITION, AND MARITAL STATUS—1929 TO JUNE 30, 1936

Mental Defect as Shown in Petition for Sterilization	Origin of Petition			Total	Marital Status		
	Non- Inst.	County Inst.	State Inst.		Married	Single	Widowed or Divorced
Cerebral Syphilis with							
Mental Deficiency .....	....	....	1	1	....	1	....
Congenital Cerebral							
Syphilis .....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....
Dementia Praecox	1	....	27	28	14	13	1
Manic Depressive							
Psychosis .....	....	....	16	16	11	5	....
Psychopathic Personality..	1	....	2	3	....	3	....
Psychosis with Cerebral							
Syphilis .....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....
Psychosis with Consti- tutional Inferiority .....	....	....	1	1	....	1	....
Psychosis with Epidemic							
Encephalitis .....	....	....	1	1	....	1	....
Psychosis with							
Hereditary Syphilis .....	....	....	1	1	....	1	....
Psychosis with Mental							
Deficiency	1	....	20	21	4	17	....
Psychosis with Syphilis .....	....	....	1	1	1	....	....
Psychosis Undiagnosed .....	....	....	2	2	1	1	....
Epilepsy	3	....	45	48	10	37	1
Epilepsy with Mental							
Deficiency	2	2	14	18	3	14	1
Epilepsy with Psychosis ..	1	....	4	5	2	3	....
Feeble-mindedness	118	21	45	184	16	164	4
Total	127	23	182	332	64	261	7

TABLE X

STERILIZATION OPERATIONS PERFORMED IN UNITED STATES UNDER STATE LAWS*,
1907 TO JANUARY 1, 1936

	Males	Females	Total
Alabama.....	129	95	224
Arizona.....	10	10	20
California.....	5,588	5,213	10,801
Connecticut.....	22	361	383
Delaware.....	243	209	452
Idaho.....	4	10	14
Indiana.....	266	172	438
Iowa.....	60	38	98
Kansas.....	922	587	1,509
Maine.....	13	103	116
Michigan.....	343	1,212	1,555
Minnesota.....	172	982	1,154
Mississippi.....	87	216	303
Montana.....	34	58	92
Nebraska.....	119	178	297
New Hampshire.....	44	266	310
New York.....	1	41	42
North Carolina.....	53	239	292
North Dakota.....	78	194	272
Oklahoma.....	38	30	68
Oregon.....	350	697	1,047
South Carolina.....	.....	.....	.....
South Dakota.....	93	183	276
Utah.....	45	44	89
Vermont.....	36	78	114
Virginia.....	989	1,397	2,386
Washington.....	15	65	80
West Virginia.....	.....	10	10
Wisconsin.....	87	637	724
Totals.....	9,841	13,325	23,166

*Information obtained from The Human Betterment Foundation, Pasadena, California.

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Eugenical sterilization in
North Carolina

